



“Life Without Limbs is Limitless”

USA Patriots Kids Camp

About Camp:

The USA Patriots Kids Camp is an Annual Program established in an effort to provide children with amputations, limb loss, or physical challenges with all means necessary to attend a camp annually that goes beyond a traditional softball camp. The Mission of Kids Camp is to provide a therapeutic experience for children with physical challenges or differences. It is our hope that in providing these opportunities, we will encourage confidence, leadership, and friendship, as well as establish mentor opportunities with a veteran who can directly relate with similar challenges, proving that “life without limbs is limitless.”

It is with great passion that our veterans utilize this opportunity to travel the country in an effort to grow this programming effort we have established for our very specific population of youth. It is our hope to serve as an outlet for children with amputations or loss of limbs to experience the therapeutic benefits of sport while also striving to establish life-long mentorships between campers and coaches.

Camp History:

This camp was a product of the incredible passion in the heart of our veterans. While traveling, the team would come into contact with youth who would show up to the games and just watch their heroes in action. What made them a hero, was that the players were often the first adult they had ever seen who looks just like they do; missing a limb. When the team recognized this need within the communities they were visiting, they promptly took action to establish a camp specifically for this population in need of inspiration and mentorship. Since 2013, this camp has helped over 160 kids find their place in sport, many of who are now playing for their high school baseball or softball teams, or participating in many other sports such as figure skating, wrestling, cheerleading, basketball, snowboarding, and even competing for the United States Paralympic Youth Team in TaeKwonDo.

While programs such as MLB and NFL have initiated programs to engage youth into sports, we are proud to be the premier organization for inclusive sport for youth in need of adaptive sport and to advance the agenda of using sport as a therapeutic benefit for physical and emotional wellbeing for a population in dire need.

Who Camp Benefits:

This camp is specifically for youth in need for adaptive sport opportunities. We are thrilled to have supported over 160 kids with physical limitations, most of whom never imagined they would be attending a sports camp of any type, let alone a camp where they are no longer different.

While the kids attending camp are our beneficiaries, our benefits are also visible to both the veterans who serve as coaches, and the child's parent who may have never imagined their child could walk again, let alone play a team sport! The emotional healing goes far beyond that of the kids attending camp, and in the words of one camper parent, "this organization has saved both my son and my husband."

Program Details:

Kids Camp is a \$180,000 annual investment made by the team and funded entirely through private support. We fully fund a week long camp, which includes transportation to the camp, lodging, and meals, for 20 campers and one parent/guardian as well as approximately 15 veterans.

Camp is 7 days and includes a welcome dinner to formally introduce our campers and coaches, 4 days of adaptive skills training, and one big game for the red and blue teams to take the field to show off all they have learned over the last week with their new mentors and coaches. While softball takes on the mornings, we like to use afternoons to take campers to different activities within the communities we visit, such as museums, amusement parks, and major league sporting events!

We are grateful for the support of Easton and Smash it Sports for providing equipment and apparel to this children. Since partnering with these organizations, we have been able to give each child their very own bat, glove, helmet, and backpack, as well as their very own custom jersey for their BIG GAME!

For Kids Camp 2020, we will be hosting our campers in Fond du Lac, WI! Camp will be held from August 10 - 16.